



The Five Rivers Council continues to monitor the situation with the COVID-19 Virus closely and to make decisions on Scouting operations in the best interests of our youth, families, volunteers, and communities. Over the last few days, our nation, states, counties, and local towns have taken several actions to reduce the spread and severity of the Virus. These actions have a direct impact on the lives of all of us and our Scouting operations.

Based on the recent actions by government agencies and recommendations of healthcare professionals, the Five Rivers Council, BSA is extending our suspension of all in-person Scouting activities through April 30, 2020. This includes all unit meetings and activities, District and Council events, all use of our camp properties, and the operation of our Council Offices and Scout Shop. We are making this decision with the safety of Scouts, volunteers, professional staff, and our community as our top priority.

We strongly encourage units, dens, and patrols to continue to meet virtually during this hiatus using video or phone conferencing at their regularly scheduled time. Our youth must maintain a sense of normalcy and continuity during this time, and your unit can help with this by continuing to meet with your Scouts virtually.

Along with the Council's Facebook group, *The Water Cooler*, we are creating a **"Still Scouting"** page on our council website (www.fiverivers.org), which provides resources to help you with running video or phone conference meetings. Our objective is to keep the Scouting community up to speed with developments during this period of uncertainty and change. You can access the page at: <http://fiveriversbsa.org/still-scouting/>

We intend to present some ideas each day on Scouting activities that can be done at home for both Cub Scouts and Scouts, BSA. We hope that this activity list will help make sure that each age group of Scouts remains engaged and presents some options for at-home fun and learning. Please let us know if you have any comments, ideas, or recommendations about how to improve this process. We will happily share your thoughts and suggestions across the rest of the Council.

While the Council and District Offices will remain closed through April 30, our support staff and District Executives are working remotely and will be available to provide support to you. Please feel free to call us at (607) 732-9047 and leave a message or reach out to the professional staff through their mobile phones or email accounts. While we hope to be able to check mail at least once a week, please understand if there is a delay in responding to materials sent to offices via post.

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P 607-796-0699
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We also strongly encourage our districts to continue to have their routine monthly meetings (District Committee, Roundtable, Leaders Meetings, etc.) via electronic means. If you need help setting up a virtual meeting, please contact your District Executive.

To be clear, we intend to resume normal council-wide operations when government authorities and healthcare professionals let us know that it is safe to do so. We are looking forward to reopening our offices, the Scout Shop at the Arnot Mall, all camp facilities, as well as resuming district and council events, and unit operations. We also continue to plan for a great summer camp experience for our Scouts at Camp Gorton and have extended the Early Bird registration deadline to May 1 and the Regular fee deadline to June 1.

As this is a fluid and ever-changing situation, we will continue to provide regular updates as they become available and will make additional adjustments to our operations as required.

Please take the necessary precautions to remain healthy and safe.

Yours in Scouting,

Yours in Scouting,

Karl Ziegenfus
Field Director

John Sharkey
Council President

Marc McGrain
Council Commissioner

Brad Bowersox
Area Director

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